

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 113066
ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /028 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:JRJOHNSON:JY
APPROVED BY EA/VLC:FZBROWN
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
FOR EA ONLY

-----012331 040949Z /21

R 032208Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 113066

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, AGR, US, LA

SUBJECT: LAO EMERGENCY FOOD AID

REF: VIENTIANE 509

1. NO DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED ON POSSIBLE AMERICAN FOOD AID TO LAOS. APPRECIATE YOUR REPORTING ON PROBLEMS AND EMBASSY'S VIEWS REFTEL. INTERESTED MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND PUBLIC AWARE THROUGH DEPARTMENT AND THROUGH UNDP NEW YORK THAT SOME 94,000 TONS OF FOOD AID ALREADY PLEDGED TO LAOS AND THAT LAO ARE REPORTEDLY RECEIVING WHAT THEY NEED FOR "NEXT FEW MONTHS."

2. MEMORANDUM IS CIRCULATING AMONG INTERESTED BUREAUS WITH ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATIONS (A) THAT WE DEFER ANY FIRM DECISION ON FOOD AID FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND SO INFORM LAO OR (B) THAT WE DECIDE IN PRINCIPLE TO PROVIDE LAO WITH 10,000 TONS OF PL-480 TITLE II RICE ASSISTANCE LATER IN YEAR IF, AFTER REVIEWING INFORMATION IN SUMMER, WE DECIDE LAO
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STILL NEED THIS AID. OUR PRIVATE GUESS IS THAT OPTION A WILL BE ADOPTED.

3. WE WILL HOPE TO GET INSTRUCTIONS TO YOU NEXT WEEK (AT EARLIEST) ON THIS SUBJECT. IN MEANTIME, YOU CAN OF COURSE CONFIRM TO LAO IF ASKED THAT WE UNDERSTAND THEY ARE ALREADY RECEIVING SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEIR REQUEST

BUT THAT USG STILL HAS REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY PLANNING, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE113066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JRJOHNSON:JY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0285
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780596/aaaadduj.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 571f23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 VIENTIANE 509
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2799895
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LAO EMERGENCY FOOD AID
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, US, LA
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/571f23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014